# Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

NAHEED MANGI,

Defendant.

Case No. 18-cr-00260-EJD-1

## ORDER DENYING MOTION TO SUPPRESS

Re: Dkt. No. 56

Defendant Naheed Mangi ("Mangi") moves to suppress evidence—AT&T internet subscriber and location information, three seized computers, documents, and photographs obtained pursuant to search warrants executed by Stanford University Department of Public Safety ("SUDPS") Detectives. Def. Naheed Mangi's Mot. to Suppress Evid. Obtained as a Result of Search Warrants Executed by the Stanford Univ. Dep't of Pub. Safety ("Mot."), Dkt. No. 56. The Government filed an opposition, Dkt. No. 59 ("Opp'n"), and Mangi filed a reply, Dkt. No. 60 ("Reply"). The motion was heard on January 31, 2022 (Dkt. No. 67), after which the parties submitted supplemental briefing (Dkt. Nos. 68, 69). The Court conducted a further hearing on May 23, 2022. Having considered the parties' briefs, the record in this case, and the comments of counsel, the Court **DENIES** Mangi's motion to suppress for the reasons stated below.

### I. **BACKGROUND**

On August 26, 2013, SUDPS Deputy Sheriffs Scott Floerchinger ("Floerchinger") and Anthony Bejaran met with Stanford University staff in Palo Alto, California. Hinckley Decl., Ex.

H at MANGI000280, Dkt. No. 56-2. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU")
between the County of Santa Clara and Stanford University, Floerchinger is a "Reserve Deputy
Sheriff' under California Penal Code section 830.6. <i>Id.</i> , Ex. A ("MOU") at 2. The Stanford
University staff told the Reserve Deputy Sheriffs that at 4:30 p.m. on August 19, 2013, the
University fired Mangi from her position as a Clinical Research Coordinator at the University's
Cancer Clinical Trials Office due to a "work performance" issue. <i>Id.</i> , Ex. H at MANGI000280.
Stanford University staff said Mangi was "very angry" about her the termination. <i>Id.</i> Staff told
Floerchinger that at some time on August 19, 2013, Mangi contacted the patient scheduler and
"attempted to cancel several of her sponsored patient appointments, which would possibly have
jeopardized the health and safety of the patients as well as disrupted the research being done by
Stanford." Id. The scheduler was suspicious of the request and consequently did not cancel the
appointments. Id. According to Floerchinger's Statement of Probable Cause, the clinical research
sponsor, Genentech, told Pei-Jen Chang, the Clinical Research Supervisor for Breast Oncology,
that on August 19, 2013, at 2056 hours Pacific Time, someone using Mangi's account information
accessed and altered a clinical research database. <i>Id.</i> The alterations included changes to clinical
research results and inappropriate comments about some physicians. Hinckley Decl., Ex. Id. Staff
informed the Deputies that Mangi "had a personal laptop that she sometimes used for work" and
that her login credentials for the database were "not removed until later on August 20." Id. at
MANGI000281. Stanford staff also told the Deputies that Mangi's login credentials for
Genentech's database weren't removed until sometime on August 20, 2013. <i>Id</i> .
On September 5, 2013, Floerchinger and another Reserve Deputy Sheriff traveled to

Oakland, California (located in Alameda County) and "verified Mangi's residence" in an apartment on Euclid Avenue. Id. On September 9, 2013, Stanford School of Medicine's Associate Chief Information Officer told Floerchinger that "the Internet Protocol (IP) address the laptop used to connect to the Internet 'geo-located' to somewhere in the Bay Area." Id. On September 16, 2013, Floerchinger learned that the database in question was owned by CMED Clinical Services ("CMED"). Id. Sometime between September 16, 2013, and October 31, 2013,

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Floerchinger learned that the server on which the database was housed was located in the United
Kingdom. Mot. at 7 (citing Hinckley Decl., Ex. I at MANGI000255). On September 27, 2013,
Floerchinger "obtained the IP address that [Mangi's] account used when it last accessed the
database." Opp'n at 3 (citing Hinckley Decl., Ex. J at MANGI000268).

In October and November of 2013, Floerchinger submitted affidavits (which he also amended upon learning new or corrected information) to Santa Clara County judges in support of two search warrants to investigate a violation of California Penal Code §502(c)(4). Hinckley Decl., Exs. H, J. One of the warrants was directed to AT&T for subscriber and location information. Hinckley Decl., Ex. J. The other was a search warrant for Mangi's Oakland residence. Id., Ex. H. In the affidavits, Floerchinger referred to himself as a Detective employed as a "Deputy Sheriff with the [SUDPS]." *Id.*, Ex. H at MANGI000280, Ex. J at MANGI000266. Floerchinger did not include information in the affidavits regarding the MOU. Nor did he disclose that the database in question was located in the United Kingdom.

Based on the information in Floerchinger's affidavits (and amendments), Santa Clara County Superior Court judges issued the warrants to "ANY PEACE OFFICER IN THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA." Id., Ex. H at MANGI000274, Ex. J at MANGI000262. On October 18, 2013, Judge Shelyna Brown authorized the initial AT&T warrant, which Floerchinger transmitted to AT&T that day. *Id.* at MANGI000282. On October 22, 2013, AT&T rejected the warrant because the incorrect time zone had been listed. Id. Floerchinger amended the affidavit, and on November 1, 2013, Judge Brown authorized the amended warrant. *Id.* On November 7, 2013, Floerchinger executed the AT&T warrant, with assistance from AT&T personnel. *Id.* AT&T notified Floerchinger that the IP address used to access and alter the database was the same one registered to Mangi's apartment. Id.

On November 14, 2013, Santa Clara County Judge Rodney Stafford authorized the residential search warrant. Id., Ex. H. On November 15, 2013, when Mangi was not home, four SUDPS officers executed the search warrant on her residence, and seized three computers and various documents. Id., Ex. K at MANGI000189-90. The SUDPS officers also took photographs

during the search. Id., Ex. M at MANGI000287-302.

Following the seizure, Floerchinger gave the three computers to a United States Secret Service Agent to "perform [] forensic analysis on the computers." *Id.*, Ex. K at MANGI000193. Secret Service discovered "connection history to the CMED Technology website" on one of the three computers, though "no time or date information was available and no further evidentiary value was found with this computer related to this case." Ex. Q at MANGI000341.

On June 14, 2018, Mangi was charged with two counts of intentionally damaging a protected computer, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1030(a)(5)(A), (c)(4)(B)(i), (c)(4)(A)(i)(I), and (c)(4)(A)(i)(II), and one count of accessing a protected computer without authorization and obtaining information, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(2)(C). Indictment, Dkt. No. 1.

Mangi now challenges both warrants and moves to suppress all evidence obtained during the November 15, 2013 search of her Oakland residence, and any fruits thereof.

### II. DISCUSSION

Mangi raises three arguments in support of exclusion. First, Mangi contends that the Santa Clara County-issued warrants were void *ab initio* because Santa Clara County judges do not have jurisdiction to issue warrants relating to an alleged crime committed outside of Santa Clara County. Mot. at 11-14. Second, she asserts that the searches conducted pursuant to the warrants violated her Fourth Amendment rights because they were conducted by Reserve Deputy Sheriffs who had no law enforcement authority beyond the Stanford University Campus. *Id.* at 14-17. Third, she contends that the Good Faith exception—as set forth in *United States v. Leon*, 468 U.S. 897 (1984)—does not apply to searches conducted by deputized private university security officers "who derive their law enforcement authority from" a MOU. *Id.* at 18-20. The Government contends otherwise.

### **A.** The Validity of the Warrants

"Where, as here, a search is conducted by state law enforcement pursuant to a state warrant, and is not otherwise 'federal in character,' the warrant need only conform to the requirements of the Federal Constitution, rather than to the procedural requirements of Rule 41,

Fed. R. Crim. P." <i>United States v. Embry</i> , 2014 WL 1809388, at *6 (D. Mont. May 7, 2014)
(citing United States v. Bookout, 810 F.2d 965, 967 (10th Cir. 1987)); see also United States v.
Crawford, 657 F.2d 1041, 1046 (9th Cir. 1981) ("The mere fact that evidence obtained by state
officers, under a state warrant, based upon violations of state law, is used in a federal prosecution
does not invoke the requirements of Rule 41. In such cases the standard is whether the warrant
comports with the requirements of the Fourth Amendment.") (citations omitted).

The Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution provides that "[t]he right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." U.S. Const. Amend. IV. Under the Fourth Amendment, "a warrant purportedly authorizing a search beyond the jurisdiction of the issuing magistrate judge is void." *United States v. Henderson*, 906 F.3d 1109, 1117 (9th Cir. 2018). In California, a state court judge, as a magistrate, has jurisdiction to issue a warrant to be executed in another county "when he has probable cause to believe that the evidence sought relates to a crime committed within his county and thus pertains to a present or future prosecution in that county." *People v. Fleming*, 29 Cal.3d 698, 707 (1981); *People v. Dantzler*, 206 Cal. App. 3d 289, 292 (1988). Thus, the issue before this Court is whether the state court judges had probable cause to believe that the evidence sought in the two search warrants related to a crime committed in Santa Clara County. *See id*.

The warrants sought evidence of a suspected violation of Penal Code section §502(c)(4) (database alteration). Penal Code section 502(c)(4) provides that a person is guilty of a public offense when he or she "[k]nowingly accesses and without permission adds, alters, damages, deletes, or destroys any data, computer software, or computer programs which reside or exist internal or external to a computer, computer system, or computer network." Pen. Code § 502(c)(4). Under California Penal Code section 502(j), "[f]or purposes of bringing a civil or a criminal action under this section, a person who causes, by any means, the access of a computer, computer system, or computer network in one jurisdiction from another jurisdiction is deemed to

have personally accessed the computer, computer system, or computer network in each jurisdiction." Pen. Code § 502(j).

Citing Penal Code section 502(j), Mangi contends that the alleged unlawful access could only have occurred in Alameda County or the United Kingdom, not in Santa Clara County, and therefore the Santa Clara County state court judges lacked jurisdiction to issue the warrants. The Fourth Amendment, however, requires a magistrate issuing a search warrant to have probable cause, not absolute certainty, that a crime was committed in Santa Clara County. *Fleming*, 29 Cal.3d at 707; *see also People v. Galvan*, 5 Cal. App. 4th 866, 870 (1992) ("[W]hen the magistrate has probable cause to believe that the evidence relates to a crime committed within the county and pertains to a present or future prosecution in that county, he has authority to issue a warrant authorizing a county peace officer to search property located in another county."). "[P]robable cause means 'fair probability,' not certainty or even a preponderance of the evidence." *United States v. Gourde*, 440 F.3d 1065, 1069 (9th Cir. 2006) (en banc). A magistrate judge must consider the "totality of the circumstances" and "answer the commonsense, practice question whether there is probable cause." *Id.* (internal quotations omitted).

Floerchinger's affidavits presented sufficient evidence to show a "fair probability" that the alleged section 502 violation was committed in Santa Clara County and thus pertained to a present or future prosecution in that county. In support of the AT&T warrant, Floerchinger explained that Stanford University's Cancer Institute, located in Santa Clara County, terminated Mangi from her position as Clinical Research Coordinator. Hinckley Decl., Ex. J at MANGI000266. Mangi's former job required her to input research data into the Cancer Institute databases. *Id.* Upon termination, she was told not to access clinical research databases. *Id.* The clinical research sponsor, Genentech, told the Clinical Research Supervisor that someone using Mangi's account accessed and altered one of its clinical research databases on August 20, 2013, at 0256 hours. *Id.* 

Floerchinger learned that Mangi occasionally used her personal laptop for work and that Mangi claimed the laptop "had gone missing sometime around the time of her termination." *Id.* at MANGI000267. Stanford's Associate CIO for the School of Medicine Information Resources and

Technology, Todd Ferris ("Ferris"), told Floerchinger that there was a "possibility" Mangi had
used her personal laptop to access the Stanford network after her termination. Id. Ferris also told
Floerchinger that "the laptop Mangi received from Stanford" was last seen online by Stanford on
August 20, 2013, at about 1424 hours, using IP address 75.37.20.242. Id. Floerchinger also
learned from a CMED employee that on August 20, 2013, Mangi's account used the IP address
75.36.178.189 to access the database. <i>Id.</i> at MANGI000268.

Based on the "totality of these circumstances" described above—including Mangi's former employment with Stanford, the use of Mangi's account to access the database, Mangi's possible use of the Stanford network and/or use of a Stanford laptop—Judge Brown properly determined that there was probable cause that a crime was committed within Santa Clara County.

Judge Stafford also properly found that there was probable cause to search Mangi's apartment in Oakland, California. Floerchinger's affidavit recited the same facts as in the AT&T warrant. Hinckley Decl., Ex. H. His affidavit also indicated that Mangi resided at the Oakland location and included the results of the AT&T search: the subscriber address and phone number associated with the IP addresses identified in the AT&T warrant matched the address and phone number Stanford University had on file for Mangi. *Id.* at MANGI000280-83. Floerchinger also included updated information from CMED indicating that its database was accessed on August 19, 2013, at 2056, and not August 20, 2013, at 0256 as was previously reported. *Id.* at MANGI000282.

Defendant relies on *Dantzler* to support her assertion that the Santa Clara County judges lacked jurisdiction to issue the out-of-county warrants; however, that case is distinguishable. *In Dantzler*, the parties stipulated that the search warrant affidavit submitted to a San Francisco municipal court judge for an out-of-county search did not refer to any crime committed in San Francisco, nor did the warrant indicate that the offenses would be prosecuted in San Francisco. 206 Cal. App. 3d at 292. Accordingly, on appeal, the court found it was "undisputed that the search warrant affidavit . . . failed to indicate that the criminal activities with which appellant was charged took place in San Francisco and/or that the criminal prosecution for the charges was to be

conducted in San Francisco." *Id.* at 293. In *Dantzler*, the municipal court judge erred by authorizing an out-of-county search without a showing of the "requisite nexus between the forum and the place to be searched." *Id.* Unlike in *Dantzler*, Floerchinger's affidavits showed a nexus between Santa Clara County and the two places that were searched. As discussed above, the affidavits explained that Stanford Cancer Institute, located in Santa Clara County, terminated Mangi from her position as Clinical Research Coordinator. Mangi's supervisor told Floerchinger that Mangi was very angry about the termination. The affidavits described how Mangi allegedly used Stanford-issued credentials, the Stanford network, and/or a Stanford-issued laptop to access a database being used for ongoing Stanford clinical research. Based on these factual allegations, there was a fair probability that Mangi allegedly accessed the CMED database within Santa Clara County. Thus, the Santa Clara County judges had probable cause to believe the alleged section 502 violation was committed in Santa Clara County and thus pertained to a present or future prosecution in that county. Therefore, the Santa Clara County judges had jurisdiction to issue the out-of-county warrants.

# B. SUDPS Authority

The MOU provides that "[i]n order to provide for the assignment of certain specific police functions to qualified members of the Stanford University Department of Public Safety . . . , the Sheriff of the County of Santa Clara will deputize Reserve Deputy Sheriffs (under Section 830.6 of the Penal Code) under conditions herewith set forth." MOU at 2. In turn, section 830.6(a)(1) of the Penal Code provides in pertinent part that "[w]henever any qualified person is deputized or appointed by the proper authority as . . . a reserve deputy sheriff . . . and is assigned specific police functions by that authority, the person is a peace officer." Cal. Penal Code § 830.6(a)(1). The authority of a person designated as a peace officer pursuant to this paragraph extends only for the duration of the person's specific assignment." *Id.* Similarly, section 830.6(a)(2) provides that "[w]henever any qualified person is deputized or appointed by the proper authority as . . . a reserve deputy sheriff . . . and is assigned to the prevention and detection of crime and the general enforcement of the laws of this state by that authority, the person is a "peace officer." Cal. Penal

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Code § 830.6(a)(2). Section II.A. of the MOU sets forth the "Specific Assignments and Jurisdiction of Reserve Deputy Sheriffs." *Id.* at 3. Specifically, the MOU states:

- 1. General law enforcement duties in all areas shown [on an attached map] and described in [another attachment] for the primary purposes of deterring and preventing violations of, and enforcing the laws of, the United States of America, the State of California and the ordinances of the County of Santa Clara.
- The performance of such further duties as from time to time and at such locale as may be assigned by the Sheriff. The general duties and priorities of the Stanford Reserves are those directed by the Sheriff.

Id. 3-4. The MOU also provides that "[s]ubject to the above Specific Assignments [], all initial and follow up investigations of crimes shall be conducted by Stanford Reserves unless the Sheriff directs otherwise." Id. at 4.

Mangi contends that pursuant to the MOU and California Penal Code section 830.6, Stanford Reserve Deputy Sheriffs have no law enforcement authority beyond the Stanford University campus and therefore, their execution of the search warrants violated her Fourth Amendment rights. The rationale for her argument is that Floerchinger and the other Reserve Deputy Sheriffs were deputized as peace officers under only subsection (a)(1) of California Penal Code section 830.6, which provides peace officer authority "only for the duration of the person's specific assignment"; the MOU limits "specific assignments" to general law enforcement duties on the Stanford campus; and because the alleged violation of Penal Code §502(c)(4) did not occur on the Stanford campus (in Santa Clara County), they lacked authority to execute the out-of-county search warrants. Mot. at 14-15.

Whether only subsection (a)(1) of Penal Code § 830.6 applies in this case is reasonably debatable because the MOU is vague and ambiguous. The MOU refers both to "Specific Assignments" as required for deputizing under subsection (a)(1), as well as "[g]eneral law enforcement duties . . . for the primary purposes of deterring and preventing violations of' laws, including California laws, as required for deputizing under subsection (a)(2). MOU at 3. However, even if only subsection (a)(1) applies, it does not follow that Floerchinger and the other

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Reserve Deputy Sheriffs lacked authority to execute the search warrants at issue. Although subsection (a)(1) provides that a peace officer's authority "extends only for the duration of the person's specific assignment," this is a temporal limitation, not a geographical or jurisdictional limitation, and thus does not necessarily preclude a Reserve Deputy Sheriff from executing a search warrant outside of Santa Clara County. Mangi is correct that the MOU limits "specific assignments" to general law enforcement duties on the Stanford campus. However, as discussed previously, there was probable cause to believe the alleged section 502 violation was committed on the Stanford campus. Pursuant to section II.D. of the MOU, Reserve Deputy Sheriffs have authority to conduct "all initial and follow up investigations" of that alleged crime. MOU at 4; see also Decl. of SUDPS Chief Laura Wilson ("Wilson Decl.") ¶ 3, Dkt. No. 59-1 (stating that pursuant to the MOU, Reserve Deputy Sheriffs investigate most crimes that occur on campus, which includes obtaining and executing search warrants). Section II.D. of the MOU is consistent with California law, which provides that the authority of a deputized peace officer extends beyond Santa Clara County, "to any place in the state" for "a public offense committed or which there is probable cause to believe has been committed within the political subdivision that employs the peace officer or in which the peace officer serves." Cal. Penal Code § 830.1. Indeed, Mangi does not dispute that Reserve Deputy Sheriffs generally have authority to conduct investigations out-ofcounty so long as the underlying crime was committed at Stanford University. Reply at 7 n.8. Moreover, even if the MOU did not authorize the Reserve Deputy Sheriffs to execute the warrants at issue, the issuing magistrate did. See Hinckley Decl., Exs. H, K (directing "any peace officer in the County of Santa Clara" to search and seize the listed items). Therefore, the Court finds that Floerchinger and the other Reserve Deputy Sheriffs had authority to execute the warrants at issue.

# C. Good Faith Exception

As discussed above, the search warrants are valid and the Reserve Deputy Sheriffs had authority to execute them out-of-county. Assuming *arguendo* that the warrants were not valid, suppression is still not warranted. In *Leon*, the Supreme Court created a good faith exception to the exclusionary rule for objectively reasonable law enforcement activity. *Leon*, 468 U.S. at 919.

has acted in good faith in conducting the search." *Id.* at 922 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). There are exceptions to the good faith exception, including where the affiant misleads the magistrate. *Id.* at 923. "Suppression . . . remains an appropriate remedy if the magistrate or judge in issuing a warrant was misled by information in an affidavit that the affiant *knew was false or would have known was false except for his reckless disregard of the truth.*" *Id.* (emphasis added).

First, Mangi contends that Floerchinger's affidavits misled the magistrates because they

"[A] warrant issued by a magistrate normally suffices to establish that a law enforcement officer

First, Mangi contends that Floerchinger's affidavits misled the magistrates because they failed to identify him as a "Santa Clara County Reserve Deputy Sheriff at Stanford" or as a "Stanford Reserve" deputy. However, there has been no sufficient showing that Floerchinger knowingly or recklessly omitted these facts. Instead, Floerchinger accurately identified himself in the affidavits as "Detective Scott Floerchinger," employed "as a Deputy Sheriff with the Stanford University Dept. of Public Safety." Hinckley Decl., Ex. J at MANGI000266; Ex. H at MANGI000280. SUDPS uses the title "Detective" to refer to deputies assigned to its Investigative Services Division. Decl. of Scott Floerchinger in Supp. of the United States' Opp'n to Def.'s Mot. to Suppress Search Warrants ("Floerchinger Decl.) ¶ 5, Dkt. No. 59-2; see also Wilson Decl. ¶ 3 (referring to warrants written by a "SUDPS detective"). He also outlined his qualifications, including his graduation from the "basic police academy at the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Justice Training Center" and completion of multiple Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified courses. See Hinckley Decl., Ex. J at MANGI000266; Ex. H at MANGI000280. In short, Floerchinger provided the magistrates with accurate information about his qualifications and role within the SUDPS.

Second, Mangi contends that Floerchinger failed to inform the magistrates that pursuant to the MOU, he only had authority to investigate crimes on the Stanford campus. Again, there has been no sufficient showing that Floerchinger knowingly or recklessly omitted this fact. Furthermore, as discussed above, there was probable cause to believe a crime had been committed on the Stanford campus, and hence Floerchinger had authority to investigate that crime.

Third, Mangi faults Floerchinger for failing to inform the magistrates that the CMED
database was located in the United Kingdom and that pursuant to Penal Code section 502(j), the
crime occurred outside of Santa Clara County. But again, there has been no sufficient showing
that Floerchinger knowingly or recklessly omitted these facts. Floerchinger informed the
magistrates of all entities involved with the database—who owned the database (CMED), who
sponsored the study (Genentech), who used and maintained the database (Stanford), and who was
impacted by its alteration (Stanford). <i>Id.</i> , Ex. J at MANGI000266-69; Ex. H at MANGI000280-
83. The affidavits also informed the magistrates that Mangi lived in Oakland and hence she could
have accessed the database outside of Santa Clara County. <i>Id.</i> , Ex. J at MANGI000267, Ex. H at
MANGI000283. Further, the affidavits indicated that AT&T provided the IP addresses out of
Fremont and Newark. <i>Id.</i> Ex. Ex. J at MANGI000268, Ex. H at MANGI000282. As discussed
previously, Floerchinger's affidavits set forth sufficient facts to show a "fair probability" that the
alleged section 502 violation was committed in Santa Clara County.

Therefore, the good faith exception to the exclusionary rule applies, and suppression is not warranted or required.

## V. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Court **DENIES** Mangi's Motion to Suppress.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 31, 2022

EDWARD J. DAVILA United States District Judge